



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Southern New Hampshire*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The region had one of the largest textile mill operations in New England during the mid 1800s, and benefitted from the growth in high-tech jobs in the late Twentieth Century. With the decline of the high-tech industry nationwide, the region's economy has slumped over the past several years. With a population of 197,000, the region's unemployment rate shot up from 3.5 percent in 2000 to 6.6 percent in August 2003, significantly



### Assessment Grant



**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to identify and characterize known or potential petroleum-contaminated brownfields and enter them into NRPC's Geographical Information System (GIS). The assessments will focus on sites that affect drinking water supplies, urbanized areas, and schools. Fifteen Phase I environmental assessments will be completed, and phase II assessments will be conducted on a subset of those sites. A portion of the funds will be used to support a community advisory board to oversee the inventory process and establish criteria for ranking the sites.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team  
617-918-1221

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Nashua Regional Planning Commission, NH  
603-883-0366

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

higher than state and national averages. Some of the communities within the region have the highest poverty rates in New Hampshire, ranging from 13.7 to 27.4 percent. A key issue facing the region is development within the Pennichuck Brook Watershed, which provides drinking water to the City of Nashua and 20 other towns in New Hampshire.